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WASHINGTON POST
10 DECEMBER 1982

Soviet Effort in Nuclear Freeze Rally Cited

By Joanne Omang
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Soviet Union is "trying to capitalize" on the worldwide nuclear freeze movement and its agents "were actively involved" in planning a major New York demonstration last spring, U.S. intelligence officials told Congress in classified testimony released yesterday.

However, both the CIA and the FBI officers said their agencies could find no evidence that the efforts had significantly influenced either U.S. policy makers or the turnout for the rally.

The July testimony before the House Intelligence Committee was among documents President Reagan cited last month as support for his charge that the Soviet Union is manipulating the U.S. freeze movement.

Committee members immediately clashed over the impact of the hearings, which looked into the Soviets' campaign of "active measures" to promote their views worldwide.

"The bottom line is that the hearings provided no evidence that the Soviets direct, manage or manipulate the nuclear freeze movement," said committee Chairman Edward P. Boland (D-Mass.).

Although testimony showed the Soviets spent vast amounts of time and money on forged documents, planted agents and other active measures to try to influence events, Boland said, the FBI had testified that the efforts "have had, at best, minimal impact on U.S. decision makers."

Rep. C.W. (Bill) Young (R-Fla.), a conservative committee member, told a news conference he did not agree that the hearings produced no evidence of Soviet involvement.

He said he had "provoked, pushed and irritated" the committee into holding the hearings because the Soviet active-measures campaign "is growing and it's essential that the American people know about it."

All sides agreed that the Soviet Union, through its KGB intelligence agency, tries to infiltrate many groups worldwide and to influence their growth and direction. They differed over the success of those efforts and over the way U.S. citizens should respond.

"We were well aware that the peace movement in Europe did have a very native and genuine spawning," testified John McMahon, deputy CIA intelligence director, on July 13. "Yet the Soviets were able to capitalize on that and drive it much further than what the Europeans expected."

Edward J. O'Malley, assistant director of intelligence for the FBI, testified that the U.S. Communist Party, the U.S. Peace Council and the World Peace Council, which he called Soviet front groups, "were actively involved in the planning and implementation of the June 12 demonstration" in New York, which drew 500,000 people. But, he added, "I would not attribute the large turnout at this demonstration to the efforts" of those groups.

Jerry G. Berman, legislative counsel of the American Civil Liberties Union, said it was "irresponsible" of Reagan to charge Soviet manipulation of the freeze movement "when his own FBI could have told him there was no evidence to substantiate those charges."

Appearing with Young was former KGB major Stanislav Levchenko, who defected to the United States in 1979 after years of work in Japan.

The hearing testimony, much of it from Levchenko, revealed "absolutely incredible" things about KGB work, he said, and "if the people know about it, it will prevent the Soviets from infiltrating quite healthy organizations."

U.S. Nuclear Protests Found to Be Affected Very Little by Soviet

By JUDITH MILLER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9 — A report issued today by the House Select Committee on Intelligence presents evidence that the Soviet Union attempted to influence the American nuclear freeze movement, but it does not appear to support President Reagan's assertion that foreign agents were "manipulating" the movement.

The panel's chairman, Edward P. Boland, Democrat of Massachusetts, stated in a press release accompanying the report: "The material released today demonstrates what we have known for a long time — that the Soviet Union utilizes considerable amounts of time, money and manpower attempting, both covertly and overtly, to influence individuals, organizations and events in the United States and around the world."

But after reviewing the 337-page report, Mr. Boland said he had concluded that "Soviet agents have had no significant influence on the nuclear freeze movement."

"The bottom line is that the hearings provide no evidence that the Soviets direct, manage or manipulate the nuclear freeze movement," he said.

The report summarizes hearings held last July at which senior officials from the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation testified before the panel about Soviet "active measures," or clandestine efforts to influence events and public opinion overseas.

A member of the committee, C. W. Bill Young, Republican of Florida, said at a press conference today that the hearings had not focused on the nuclear freeze movement. Thus, he said, it was not surprising that no conclusions had been drawn about the success of Soviet infiltration in the movement in the United States.

Mr. Young acknowledged in response to a barrage of questions from a group of reporters that Soviet efforts to influence the peace movement "have not been as successful in the United States as in other places."

He also declined to say whether he believed the Soviet effort to gain influence over the freeze campaign was succeeding. But he maintained that Soviet efforts to influence American public opinion were growing.

In testimony, John McMahon, deputy director of the C.I.A., told the panel that the Soviet Union spent \$3 billion to \$4

billion a year on efforts to influence foreign public opinion.

Mr. McMahon said the Soviet Union has had a "very extensive" effort to promote opposition in Western Europe to the deployment there of the intermediate-range Pershing and cruise nuclear missiles.

"We do have good evidence," Mr. McMahon concluded, "that the Soviets have sought to exploit and manipulate the movement, and we believe that the Soviet covert support has enabled it to grow beyond its own capabilities."

However, the F.B.I. does not come to similar conclusions about the impact of Soviet efforts to influence the American freeze campaign.

Edward J. O'Malley, assistant director of intelligence for the bureau, asserted that Soviet front groups were "actively involved in the planning and implementation of the June 12 demonstration in New York," which attracted more than 500,000 people. It identified those groups as the United States Peace Council, the World Peace Council and Communist Party of the United States.

But Mr. O'Malley added: "I would not attribute the large turnout at this demonstration" to efforts by those groups.

In its formal assessment, the F.B.I. concluded: "We do not see Soviet active measures in the United States as having a significant impact on U.S. decision-makers."

"American labor unions are fairly sensitive to the efforts of the C.P.U.S.A. to agitate and promote Soviet views and policies among their members. The American media is sophisticated, and generally recognizes Soviet influence attempts."

As its evidence of Soviet involvement in the peace movement, the report contains a copy of a memo from the Communist Party of the United States to its section organizers urging them to "mobilize the entire district to help insure a giant turnout on June 12."

Mr. Reagan stirred concerns about foreign involvement in the nuclear arms freeze movement while campaigning in October. He said that foreign agents were "manipulating" innocent people who urge the United States and Soviet Union to negotiate a bilateral, verifiable freeze on the production,

testing and deployment of nuclear weapons.

In a press conference after the election last month, Mr. Reagan reiterated this assertion and said there was "plenty of evidence" of such foreign involvement, which he could not discuss. The next day, a White House spokesman said the House Intelligence Committee was preparing to release a report that would document Mr. Reagan's charges.

The report provides some evidence for Soviet involvement, but it does not come to any conclusion about the impact of that involvement.

Jerry Berman, of the American Civil Liberties Union, said today that the report "demonstrates the irresponsibility of President Reagan's charges of Soviet manipulation of the freeze movement."